

MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026



The Mt. Diablo Iris Society exists for the purpose of stimulating and fostering interest in the propagation, culture and hybridizing of the genus Iris. As well the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning about any phase of the genus Iris, and in the protection of these plants in their native habit.

▶▶ **MDIS Meeting** ◀◀
▶▶ **Sunday, February 8th, 1-3 pm** ◀◀
▶▶ **San Ramon Community Center** ◀◀
12501 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good day MDIS,

Before you know it, it's going to be 70 degrees and the daffodils will be blooming and the irises will begin their new leaf growth. If it's a dry February and March, the leaves should be nice and clean without fungal leaf spot. If we have regular rains and cool to mild weather, the dreaded leaf spot will appear. Preventing is easier than treatment. Removing old leaves before new growth begins, improves air circulation, and don't water from above. Of course we can't stop the rains from above. Spraying with a copper fungicide when the leaves are less than 6' tall will greatly reduce the onset. Spray every 10-14 days if there is consistent rains. Removing the infected leaves will prevent spread but this is a cumbersome job and makes the plants unsightly. Some years it's bad, some years it's almost non-existent.

Our first guest speaker by Zoom was in January. Jennifer McKay from Adelaide, Australia. When we do Zoom, we go real far

away. Her talk was informative and very well presented. I will be doing the favor in return for their society. We will do this again to bring speakers from far away that we would otherwise never get to hear speak. If there is someone you would like to hear, let us know. If it's someone you already know, ask them to be our speaker by Zoom. We give a \$50.00 stipend.

On January 24th, we had our MDIS Board meeting. We discussed numerous things which you can read about in the Board Meeting minutes in the March newsletter. One thing we need your input on is adding another Director for a one year term. Carl Meier is our current two year term director. We only meet twice per year. Usually in January and again in the summer. This is when we talk about what worked during the previous year and make adjustments. We also go over our budget and make sure we are on track. This is where we have added the Zoom speaker engagement and we are looking into having a website to post information about our society and cultural help. If you are interested in being our 1 year director, let me or Carl know. We also still have

the Vice President position open. The vice President is in charge of monthly topics, facility rentals and stepping in to run a meeting if the President can't attend. I think this has only happened twice in my 5 years as President. Please consider this quietly important position.

We currently have Jan as our temporary Secretary and she is doing a wonderful job, but the Bench Show and the Virtual show is a lot of work and details to do all of it. So I'm asking for you to consider learning the Secretary role and at least shadow Jan so she can focus on other important things that are dear to her. We have a great group of leaders and we all work coherently to make our iris family fun.

Our February meeting will be our own Gayla speaking on her iris art and other fun things she does in her other 29 days that we don't see her. Lol.

With that, I'll see you all at the February meeting.

Your MTB President, Jeff Bennett

February Meeting

We will be holding our Feb 8th meeting from 1-3pm at San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon, CA

Gayla Peek will be speaking to us about her art – which includes iris! She gave us a glimpse at the January meeting, and we look forward to learning more. Her presentation will focus on how she and her fellow artists use her iris garden, plus some ideas on how and why to focus on iris in botanical illustration. She has invited her teacher and mentor, Mary Harden, of the Mary Harden School of Botanical Illustration to accompany her.

Social Lunch Prior To Meeting

Some of us plan to have lunch before the meeting at 11:30. Feel free to join us. We will be at:

PANERA, 3121 Crow Canyon Place
San Ramon, CA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Feb 8 | MDIS Meeting, San Ramon Community Center |
| Mar 8 | MDIS Meeting, San Ramon Community Center |
| Apr 24 | MDIS Meeting & Alden Lane Setup, Livermore |
| Apr 25-26 | Alden Lane Show & Fundraiser |
| May 2 | Volunteer Event at Ruth Bancroft Garden |
| May TBD | MDIS Meeting |
| June 14 | MDIS Meeting |
| Jun 27 | MDIS Board Meeting |
| July 12 Aug 8 | MDIS Auction Benicia Peddler's Fair |

Upcoming AIS Events

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| May 15-17 | Region 14 Spring Regional Reno, CA |
| May 19-26 | National Convention Newark, NJ |

7th Annual Virtual Show 2026 MDIS NOVEL (V)IRIS SHOW

Enter without having to CUT your stalks
on a SPECIFIC date!

Once again, MDIS is offering a VIRTUAL IRIS SHOW (in addition to our bench show in April at Alden Lane Nursery). We welcome you to participate in both.

The Virtual Iris show follows the same AIS guidelines for judging. The difference is that you submit four pictures of your iris rather than bringing it to a physical show.

- Jan Blaedel and Mary Sindicic, co-chairs

A bit more info, especially for newer members! The 2026 Virtual Show began January 1st and goes through August 31st. It is open to everyone to enter.

Our very own Jan created this show during the pandemic COVID outbreak when typical physical shows were impossible. Its popularity grew. With countless hours of work over the years by (primarily) Jan and her supportive cohorts, the show was refined and then approved by AIS as an official show. In the simplest terms, you submit 4 photos of a single bloom: top, front, side, and whole stalk. *However*, there are required formats with detailed instructions. This is to ensure uniformity for the exhibitors and judges.

I have included the first 4 of 8 pages of the official Show Schedule near the end of this newsletter. If you haven't already received an informational email from MDISVirtual@gmail.com, send email that you are interested in entering. You will get the complete instructions for entering, along with an assigned, unique exhibitor number and registration form.

Relating to this topic, I want to include an excerpt from the November Meeting Minutes (published in the January newsletter): "In February or March, Jan Blaedel and Mary Sindicic [hope to] offer iris grooming classes at Alden Lane Nursery for new members to learn how to groom for a bench show. And [explain] how to enter pictures in a virtual show." Entering the shows is exciting and confirms that you have another major symptom of the Iris Virus! Embrace it. 😊

- Linda

Brief Topics of NOTE

- **New Members:** We are delighted to welcome Tom Meyers and Catherine Ries as new members. We look forward to learning from the iris knowledge and experience they bring to our club.

- **Potted Iris for Alden Lane:** If you have one gallon potted irises for the MDIS Fundraiser at Alden Lane, it is important to provide a list of the **variety names and quantities to Nancy by March 1.** She will print photos for each pot and bring them to the March meeting to give to you. Her email is npahl@gmail.com
- **MDIS YouTube Videos:** Did you know we have these? Look later in the newsletter for a list of links and topics - especially about the Virtual Iris Show.

Monthly Finance Report Financial Statement January 2026

**Beginning balance, January 1, 2026 Bank
Checking: 15,836.76 Saving 6,449.71 Cash
121.61**

Revenue: **90\$** (Membership 60\$, Fertilizer 30\$)

Expenses: **664.04**

Tax paid - 445.00

Annual fee for Zoom - 126.51

Virtual Show mailing - 30.81

Fertilizer - 50.66

paper, envelopes - 11.06

**Ending balance, December 31, 2025 \$
15,232.72 Saving 6,449.71. Cash 151.61**

FOLLOWING PAGES for

➔ **February DOOR PRIZE IRIS** pg 4-5

➔ **MDIS YouTube Videos** pg 6

➔ **MDIS Novel (V)Iris Show** pg 7-9

➔ **January Meeting Minutes** pg 10-14

MDIS Door Prizes – FEB 2026

(Iris photos and descriptions are courtesy of commercial hybridizers and wiki.irises.org.)



COUNTRY CORNBREAD AND JAM

(Kanarowski 2025) TB, 37", M. Standards golden cornbread yellow; style arms slightly darker golden cornbread yellow; falls golden cornbread yellow, one-half inch deep rusty-red-wine rim; beards brilliant wide deep orange; slight sweet fragrance.



FOR DESSERT (Keppel 2025) TB, 35", M. Standards white; falls white, faint cream cast; beards white base, firecracker tips; sweet fragrance.



MYSTERY MAN (Keppel 2023) TB, 40", eM. Standards perilla purple, blended coronation; F. dark purple at edge, velvety deeper purple remainder, white near beard; beards huckleberry base, tips mustard.



BLUER THAN BLUE (Aitken 2023) TB, 36", M. Rich deep blue self; beards blue; slight fragrance.



GENTLY DOES IT (Aitken 2023) TB, 44", M. Standards pale pink-lavender, netted darker; falls very pale lavender, large white zonal spot, 1/8" peach rim; beards pale yellow in middle, ends white; slight fragrance.



HOW BIZARRE! (Black 2023) TB, 36", M. Standards pale chalky greyed violet narrow elliptical center, widely bordered mid tan gold with mid red brown veins and rim; falls white center third veined and mottled dark plum, remainder velvety purple black, irregular crystalline dotted rim; beards mid-dark old gold; slight musky fragrance.



PARISIAN (Sutton 2022) **BB**, 43", M. Standards amaranth rose, lighter at edge; falls palest peach, amaranth rose at edge, orient pink shoulders; beards poppy; laced; sweet fragrance.



LOOKS LIKE GOLD (Tasco 2025) **AB** (OGB-), 23", M. Standards yellow; style arms yellow; falls gold, washed burgundy, diffused burgundy signal; absent fragrance.



KEEPING WATCH (Johnson 2025) **SDB**, 14", eM. Standards blue; style arms blue; falls blue, with deep blue violet butterfly signal around beard; beards white base, orange tips; pronounced sweet fragrance.



MIDNIGHT VOYAGE (Sutton 2023) **TB**, 35", EML, TB, SA. Standards dark purple; falls darker purple, near black; beards purple, fuzzy black horns; slight sweet fragrance. HM 2025.



STEADY DATE (Keppel 2024) **TB**, 36", eM. Standards light apricot shading to rosy lavender center and base; falls light apricot, paling in center with slight rosy lavender flush; beards bittersweet.



EDGING AHEAD (Johnson 2024) **TB**, 36", eM. Standards light lavender to white, with slightly darker lavender stitching and dotting; falls white, with violet dotted edge, narrow violet stripe below beard; beards white base, purple and orange tips; slight fragrance.

Mt. Diablo Iris Society YouTube Videos

VIRTUAL IRIS SHOWS 2020-2025

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Virtual 2020 | https://youtu.be/nUcqVBd7ago |
| Virtual 2021 The Best | https://youtu.be/mQmcnigeTDQ |
| Virtual 2021 The Rest | https://youtu.be/uCbB_mpWHx4&t=23s |
| Virtual 2022 | https://youtu.be/uCbB_mpWHx4 |
| Virtual 2023 | https://youtu.be/5jTE0Tlq__Y |
| Virtual 2024 | https://youtu.be/l4fu7_6Sv8s |
| Virtual 2025 | https://youtu.be/qVXp-05BNwo |
| Virtual 2025 Awards | https://youtu.be/gPLeOyuBv_c |
| How to Photograph for Virtual Shows | https://youtu.be/9znsLlfcwrk |

Programs and In-Person Bench Shows

| | |
|--|---|
| In-Person Bench Show | https://youtu.be/c5tyXRqG7_U |
| Understanding Iris Shows | https://youtu.be/7iTQsB8Yxqk |
| Immersive Japanese | https://youtu.be/iV1kjzYvrEM |
| Japanese Iris Society | https://youtu.be/5P38zo690RM |
| UC Botanical Garden | https://youtu.be/hnQB3Z5YVN4 |
| World Iris species | https://youtu.be/LSa01-drmDA&t=52s |
| Dry Creek Gardens | https://youtu.be/XjuaLbbxu3g&t=189s |
| Riley Probst Presentation | https://youtu.be/wSANyVGxTf0 |
| ERF Electronic Registration | https://youtu.be/_kmlHJyYWaQ |
| Iris Hybridizing and Planting from Seeds | https://youtu.be/6b6JjP0slWo |
| Planting/Dividing Rhizomes | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xol8C-VY1cw |

7th Annual Virtual Show
2026 MDIS NOVEL (V)IRIS SHOW

SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

Sponsored by
MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY
An Affiliate of
The American Iris Society



LUNAR RING Tall Bearded 2020 Keith Keppel

VIRTUAL IRIS SHOW
Entries will be accepted

January 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026, midnight PDT

Open to Everyone Registration Free

After the deadline, AIS judges will judge the iris and you will be notified by email the results of the judging.

Virtual Ribbons and Virtual Rosettes will be emailed to you.

A Show Video will be produced and available on the Mt Diablo Iris YouTube Channel

A People's Choice will be chosen by YouTube followers and announced in December.

Why a virtual show? Ask George Bernard Shaw "So the anxious donor offered flowers. "Surely, you must be fond of flowers, Mr. Shaw?" "So I am of children," he replied, "but I don't cut off their heads, and stick them in pots about the room." George Bernard Shaw

RULES

- This virtual show is approved by the American Iris Society. It is being held and judged under the rules and regulations of AIS as set forth in the latest 9th edition, 2025 of *the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* and any subsequent rules and regulations approved by the AIS Board of Directors. These rules and regulations may not be violated.
- Accredited judges of The American Iris Society will judge all entries in the Horticultural Divisions. The judges' decisions will be final. Any award may be withheld at their discretion.
- **Exhibitors may obtain an exhibitor number, unique registration form, and instructions by contacting MDISVirtual@gmail.com**
- **The registration must be prepared by the exhibitor.**

- This is a VARIETY/CULTIVAR show, organized into sections according to type of iris (e.g. Tall Bearded, Spuria, etc) and in alphabetical order by name of the cultivar within each section and group. Each cultivar constitutes a separate class. Only correctly named cultivars and seedlings will be judged.
- **An exhibitor may enter up to 25 cultivars or seedlings in each section in Divisions 1-3, with a maximum of 100 entries, each a different variety/cultivar.**
- The virtual show chair may divide, sub-divide, combine, or create sections and groups of entries as necessary.
- Correct and complete information must appear on the registration form for all entries: the exhibitor number, the section, section abbreviation, class, correct name of cultivar or seedling, and the photo name.
- Youth exhibitors (under 19) may enter exhibits in the Youth Horticulture Division or the Open Horticulture Division but not both in the same show.
- Entries from the same family can be made of iris grown in the same garden. Family members may enter as a unit or individually, but not both, in the same show.
- Show judges are permitted to exhibit in the show only in sections they are not judging. In the case of an emergency the show chair(s) may allow an exhibitor who is a qualified judge to serve as a virtual show judge.
- **All photos must have been taken during this calendar year by the exhibitor whose name appears on the registration form. All iris must have been grown by the exhibitor.** Cropped photos are acceptable. **Photos must be combined into one picture (JPG file) known as 4UP.**
- **Entries must be submitted by email by midnight, August 31, 2026, to MDISVirtual@gmail.com.** The email should include the registration form and the entry pictures. Use **GOOGLE DRIVE** to attach multiple picture files but let us know if you are sharing or adding to that **GOOGLE DRIVE**.
- Entries will be organized and uploaded to folders and submitted to the judges on September 1, 2026. Judges will judge using the time they require and using whatever methods work best for them.
- As this is an accredited virtual show, exhibitors will receive virtual ribbons, virtual rosettes, and virtual certificates by email following judging.

Note: If you choose to print this booklet, PRINT ON BOTH SIDES AND FLIP ON THE SHORT EDGE. It will require two pieces of paper. Fold.

Steps for entering the MDIS Virtual Show

Step 1 – Email MDISVirtual@gmail.com that you would like an ENTRY NUMBER so that you can submit photo entries. Let us know if you are entering in the YOUTH DIVISION

Apply for an ENTRY NUMBER even if you are unsure you will be entering photos. Do this NOW. You will receive: a unique registration form, a show bulletin, and other explanatory pages. These will be WORD documents. (PDF available upon request)

Step 2 – **Take photos of YOUR iris, GROWN by you, PHOTOGRAPHED by you, and ENTERED by you.** Please take and **combine four unique photos into one file with the cultivar name, correctly named, (JPEG,JPG only, less than 1 MB)}**

- 1 Photo of a single iris from above (TOP)
- 2 Photo of the same iris flower from the front (FRONT)
- 3 Photo of the same iris from the side (SIDE)
- 4 Photo of the entire iris plant, from the ground up to the top of The terminal flower (STALK)
Sample pictures Divisions I, II, and III



1-Top View



2-Front View



3. Side View



4-Full-stalk



Combined

This is known as a 4UP picture.

- Be mindful of backgrounds. Move any items that might detract from the flower.

- Crop the picture to include JUST the flower/stalk. <https://youtu.be/9znsLlfcwrk> Video will help your photography. **You MAY use a backdrop to make it easier for the judges to see your plant but this is NOT required.**

ARTISTIC DESIGN –designed and photographed by the exhibitor

- Photo from the front (FRONT)
- Total design from the side (SIDE)
- Photo of the 3X5 card with the design explanation

Combine the three photos into one file as for the other entries.

Artistic Design photos should have a backdrop

Step 3 - Naming photos for the MDIS VIRTUAL SHOW

Entries with people in the picture will be disqualified.

- **Combine four photos, top, front, side, stalk into one file.**

In **WORD** *insert* the pictures into a landscape 11X8.5 or 14X8.5

In **EXCEL**, do the same and manipulate the positions of the pictures as you wish.

In any photoshop program use a landscape format up to 16X11.

In **PUBLISHER**,(PC) insert pictures into **TABLOID**, one at a time, then manipulate positions and size.

There is a separate file available explaining each of these procedures. Name 4UP with Section Letter and cultivar name.

- All photos become the property of MDIS.
- If used for publication, you will receive photo credits.
- The virtual show committee will exercise all possible care but is not responsible for loss or damage to entries. We will respond within 48 hours to any inquiries and will acknowledge receipt of any entries within 48 hours. **If you do NOT hear from us, resend your email or contact us.**

Step 4 - Complete the REGISTRATION FORM listing each of your photo entries. Column sizes are fixed width. Please do not adjust them in any way. There is an explanation sheet sent to you on how to add iris to the registration form.

Step 5 - Email ALL photos and registration sheet to

MDISVirtual@gmail.com by midnight PDT, August 31, 2026

IN A NUTSHELL:

1. Email MDISVirtual@gmail.com and ask for an entry number
2. Take four required pictures of each iris you enter
3. **Combine your pictures into one file with the cultivar name on the picture.** Name the file with section, cultivar name.
E.G. AThat'sAllFolks would be Tall Bearded (A) entry
You will **send only one picture**, the combination of all four required pictures with only the name of the cultivar on it.
4. Complete the registration form
5. Email the photos and your completed registration form to;
MDISVirtual@gmail.com by midnight PDT August 31, 2026
(GOOGLE Drive works well for this but not necessary)
6. **You will receive an email confirmation within 48 hours**
Contact us if you do not receive a confirmation !!



Mt. Diablo Iris Society Monthly Meeting Minutes *January 11, 2026*

Attendees included: Jeff Bennett, Jan Blaedel, Sergey Melnikov, Carl Meier, Stan and Pat Morgan, Kathy Oldham, Gayla Peek, Riley Probst, Mary Sindicic, Ken Walker, Corinna Wise, Linda Woods and new members Tom and Catherine Meyer

Quorum 10 ? Yes

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society monthly meeting was called to order by president, Jeff Bennett at 1 PM at the San Ramon Community Center.

The minutes of the **November 9, 2025** were approved/revised. Motion was made by Riley Probst and seconded by Sergey Melnikov. Motion passed unanimously.

Because we are having a ZOOM presentation at 1:30 PM, (8 AM Monday, January 12 Adelaide time) reports have been moved forward.

- Jeff welcomed two new members, Catherine and Tom Meyer

Tom told about his interest in iris and mentioned his six acres – envy erupted. We look forward to their participation at future meetings and events. Welcome!

- Jan Blaedel presented Virtual Iris Show medals. Sergey Melnikov received a Bronze Medal for the second highest blue ribbons of the show and Riley Probst received the Best of Show keeper medal.
- MDIS Board meeting will be Saturday, January 24, 2026, 10 am – noon at the Capitol One Café in Walnut Creek. Park in one of the nearby lots and the first few hours are free. If you have items for the agenda, email them to MtDiabloIris@gmail.com
- Sign-up sheets on the back table for: May 2, 2026 at Ruth Bancroft Iris Garden

April Iris Show at Alden Lane Nursery April 24-26, 2026

- Treasurer Report:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| ○ | Checking | \$15,391.76 |
| | Savings | \$ 6,449.71 |
| | Cash Box | \$ 120.00 |
| | Total | \$21,961.47 |
| | 2025 Taxes paid | - \$445.00 |

- Carl Meier took the last gallon of fertilizer. Jan Blaedel will buy more – 6-20-10 If you would like a gallon, email MtDiabloIris@gmail.com and Jan will bring it to the February meeting
- Put SOCKS on iris to protect them from freezing. (Put a sock on it!)

THANK YOU Jeff Bennett and Sergey Melnikov for arranging this ZOOM meeting with Dr. Jennifer McKay AM (I believe equivalent to our MA), of the South Australia Iris Society. The trial garden for SAIS is at her home garden. She specializes in historical iris. Jennifer is an Environmental Lawyer in Adelaide, Australia. She was instrumental in designing and implementing the Iris Discovery Walk at the Adelaide Botanical Gardens.

- The iris walk is along the main walkway with the roses at the Adelaide Botanical Gardens.
- She organized it by chronology and color as she wanted it to be educative.
- In 2023 she and fellow irisarians planted 400 iris.
- Her area is a Mediterranean climate, getting about 15 inches of rain each year. Temperatures range from 0C (32F) to 43-47C (109-116F) Bloom season starts in October.
- Irrigation is done by a pre-existing drip system for the roses.
- Jennifer and club members weed regularly and recommend fertilizer maintenance.
- Iris are predominantly from Australia, arranged chronologically but also local hybridizers are featured within the plantings.
- Jennifer graciously gave us permission to post her program on our MtDiabloIris YouTube channel.
- YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/D96pWPvhqow>

THANK YOU, Jennifer, for an interesting program and a peek into growing iris in Australia.

| COLOR | SYMBOLISM | HISTORICAL USES |
|--------|--|--|
| Purple | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royalty, dignity Wisdom, spirituality | Featured in fleur-de-lis emblem of French monarchy |
| Blue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith, hope Serenity, clarity | Common in Victorian sympathy bouquets |
| Yellow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendship, optimism Courage | Popular in Art Nouveau floral motifs |
| White | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purity, innocence New beginnings | Incorporated in wedding arrangements |
| Pink | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love, femininity Gratitude | Favored in Edwardian garden aesthetics |
| Red | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passion, strength Vitality | Rare in nature but prized in royal gardens |



Australian Iris Society
<https://www.iris.org.au/>
 The Iris Society of Australia was formed in 1948 by Royce Spinkston of South Australia and Tom Piper of Tasmania.

The Iris Society of Australia (TISA) is the umbrella organisation for the regional iris societies in Australia. dedicated to promoting the growth and hybridisation of irises in Australia, it:

- Assisting in the registration of new cultivars (via American Iris Society)
- Coordination of national trial gardens and awards, including the Australian Dykes and ISA Medals
- Production of a yearbook
- Standardise the regulations for the training of judges, by production of a comprehensive handbook
- Coordination of a National Iris Convention

Brochure

- Partnership with ABG
- We maintain 3 times a year
- I go every week to weed
- Advise when to fertilize etc



Jeff Bennett mentioned that he has some historic Australian iris planted at Dry Creek. At least one of these may be extinct in Australia. 'LADY IN GOLD' 1943 Aylett is one of them.



'LADY IN GOLD'



'PONDER' 1950 Wm. J. McKee

Door Prize iris drawing: TB iris unless otherwise marked

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| ANOTHER CHAPTER | Stan Morgan |
| ARKENSTONE | Gayla Peek |
| AZTEC FIREBIRD AB | Kathy Oldham |
| BOX OF SUNSHINE | Linda Woods |
| GRACIOUS SMILE BB | Pat Morgan |
| LEFT AN IMPRINT | Corinna Wise |
| LIGHTNING STORM | Tom Meyer |
| PARISIAN BREEZE | Sergey Melnikov |
| SWIRLING SURF | Jeff Bennett |
| THIS IS ME | Jan Blaedel |
| TWIZZLER MDB | Catherine Meyer |
| WONDERFUL TONIGHT | Riley Probst |
| Reblooming Iris generously donated by Riley Probst | |
| Autumn Explosion – | Carl Meier |
| Autumn Joy – | Carl Meier |
| Chartered Course – | Mary Sindicic |
| II Stutter – | Gayla Peek |
| Joy Returns – | Pat Morgan |

Future meetings – Remind members to SILENCE all phones, watches, other digital devices. Wait for members to do so. Invite any members who would like to hear/see better to sit in the front rows.

New Business –

- If you have potted iris, get the names and number of each cultivar to Nancy Pahl by March 1, 2026 – the earlier the better. nnpahl@gmail.com
- Ruth Bancroft Gardens will be hosting an ALL DAY event co-sponsored by MDIS. We will offer tours, give planting demonstrations, discuss hybridizing, and show our videos. The garden will serve tea and organize the sign ups. We will also sell potted iris and fertilizer.
- Gayla Peek popped up and reminded us that her Iris Watercolor group will be selling their paintings at this event. She showed us some of her work and it was remarkable. What a talent! Jeff Bennett asked if she could present her paintings as the February program. This is the treat



that you are in for: –

- We are hoping to ZOOM the meeting for distant members.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84031573248?pwd=8OysQD65L2chODZa5tuWJbiM0Y7p9S.1>
- The April Iris Show and Sale will be April 25-26, 2026 with set-up on the afternoon of the 24th. How can you help? It takes the whole club to offer this required event. Sign up on the back table.
- Mary Sindicic will be offering a “How to Groom your iris for a show” at Alden Lane Nursery. Look in this newsletter for that notice. Jan Blaedel will be offering a Virtual Show How-To at the same time.

Meeting adjourned at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Blaedel, Secretary Approved _____

**MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
AND REGION 14. VISIT THE REGION WEBSITE: WWW.AISREGION14.ORG**

Dues are \$12.50 annual or \$30.00 tri-annual, Please send payment to club treasurer.

American Iris Society dues – \$30 print only, \$45 print and Emembership. Dual and multiple year pricing available. Visit: <https://www.irises.org/ais-memberships-emember/>

YOUR CURRENT BOARD:

President – Jeff Bennett, e-mail: jeff13bennett@gmail.com

Vice-President – Kathy Oldham

Treasurer – Sergey Melnikov

Secretary – Jan Blaedel, Secretary: mtdiabloiris@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor - Linda Woods, e-mail: linda.woods@comcast.net

Directors – Jan Blaedel, Carl Meier

Past President – Kathy Oldham